

IN HONOR OF THOMAS WALSH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Walsh for his years of outstanding service to his community and country. Mr. Walsh was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

Serving as an assistant to the Grand Marshall this year, Mr. Walsh previously spent twelve years working as the publicity chairman for the parade. Since 1993, he has been the coordinator of the event. An active member of the Bayonne community, Mr. Walsh has been affiliated with numerous organizations, including the National Defense Transportation Association, the Bayonne Elks Club, and the Bayonne PAL Board of Directors.

Mr. Walsh graduated from Trenton State College with a degree in English. Later, he worked in Bayonne as a public information officer before becoming a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Navy Military Sealift Command, Atlantic, and the U.S. Army Fort Hamilton Military Community. Throughout the years, Mr. Walsh has utilized his public relations skills to assist organizations such as Hudson County Cerebral Palsy, the Hudson County Association of Retarded Citizens, and the Bayonne Friends of the Handicapped with publicity.

During his time with the Armed Forces, he received ten Outstanding Performance and Special Act Awards. For the past seven years, he has been teaching at the Police Athletic League Day Care Center where he assists students with school assignments and manages field trips and other recreational events. Mr. Walsh also helps the center by writing funding proposals and press releases. When he is not working with children, he participates in the Military Sealift Command Retirees Association.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Walsh for his strong leadership and tireless efforts to help others.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SISTERS, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, AND PHYSICIANS OF OSF ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on March 22, 1880 the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis opened St. Joseph's Hospital in Bloomington, Illinois. Today, 125 years later, OSF St. Joseph Hospital remains open and ready to care for the sick.

From the very beginning, the Sisters faced adversity, but with the support of the community the hospital was able to endure. Even those outside the Sisters' religious community joined in caring for the sick, thus establishing a bond between the Sisters and the people of McLean County that is strong to this day.

Over the past 125 years, St. Joseph's Hospital has seen its share of changes. A new St.

Joseph's Hospital opened in March of 1968 along Veterans Parkway. Since then many additions have been made, including two new medical plazas, an advanced medicine center, new physician offices, a surgery wing, two urgent care clinics and a musculoskeletal center. In 1987, the hospital's name changed to OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. While the structure and name of St. Joseph's Hospital has changed, the desire and devotion of the Sisters, employees, volunteers and physicians to serve God's people has remained steadfast.

In its 125-year history, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center has accumulated many accomplishments and "firsts". For example, the first successful blood transfusion and Caesarean section in Central Illinois occurred at St. Joseph's in 1929. In addition, St. Joseph's Hospital was home to the first radiation treatments in Bloomington-Normal.

Today, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center cares for over 6,000 inpatients and 250,000 outpatients annually. They also welcome more than 800 babies every year. The Medical Center is now a nationally-recognized leader in the reduction of adverse drug events and surgical safety.

Again Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the many generations of Sisters, employees, volunteers and physicians of OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. For 125 years this hospital has served as a tremendous example of the good that can be done when people come together to serve their communities.

HONORING MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN DIVISION OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the members of Michigan Division of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate the 60th anniversary of the formation of their parent organization.

The Polish American Congress represents close to 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its members are comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. They are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The record of the Polish American Congress is a proud one. Indeed, it is as impressive as its fidelity to its historic political aims over the past 60 years. Their accomplishments, which are numerous, include: Representing the aspirations for freedom and self-determination of the Polish people at the United Nations, at international conferences, in the United States Congress, at the national conventions of the

major political parties, and before the Presidents of the United States; gaining U.S. backing for Radio Free Europe to inform the peoples of Communist-ruled Eastern Europe about what was happening in their countries and abroad, and effectively defended continued funding for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty throughout the Cold War era; contributing more than \$200 million in medical and material help to Poles, following the collapse of the Communist-run Polish economy after 1981.

Mr. Speaker, the Polish American Congress, over the past 60 years, has remained a vibrant and effective political action organization, articulating its concerns in Washington and around the country to a host of government and political leaders. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring this organization and its members. Through their dedicated efforts, 10 million Polish Americans today can feel a sense of pride in having an organization that represents their interests and aspirations.

IN HONOR OF ADAM CZUBA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Adam Czuba on being named Sir Knight of the Year by the Knights of Columbus (K of C). Mr. Czuba was recognized at the annual Knight of Honors event on February 26, 2005, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

The Sir Knight of the Year award is a special distinction given to the K of C member who has faithfully and commendably executed his role as a Fourth Degree Knight, has been most helpful in aiding the Past Faithful Navigator, and has demonstrated a thorough understanding and respect for the ideals of the Order.

Mr. Czuba became a Third Degree Knight in 1975 and has spent decades serving the Council and the Assembly. He achieved the rank of Fourth Degree Knight in 2001 and currently serves in the Color Corps. As a dedicated member of the K of C, Mr. Czuba has helped coordinate multiple events and activities for the Order, such as the flea market, bowling league, country western dances, and numerous charity events.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Czuba has worked for 22 years at the Keystone Folding Box Company. In addition to his involvement with the K of C, Mr. Czuba has served as a Cub Master for the Boy Scouts and is a member of the Hudson County Animal League.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Adam Czuba for his recognition as Knight of the Year, his dedicated work with the K of C, and his outstanding service to the community.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. NEAL and I rise today to congratulate The New England Council as they celebrate their 80th anniversary of the